

*KENT JOINT DISTRICTS:- 2*  
*(Queenborough, Sheerness, Sheppey)*

*February*

(2)

# JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year

1957



J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.





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I S L E   O F   S H E P P E Y  
(Medical Officer of Health)  
JOINT COMMITTEE

1957

Chairman:

H. C. Love

Members:

Queenborough Town Council:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.  
Miss D. L. Wood

Sheerness Urban District Council:

A. G. Coats, J.P.  
A. H. Copland  
E. F. Knight, J.P.  
R. W. Stone  
Mrs. E. Tiltman

Sheppey Rural District Council:

H. C. Love  
Lt. Col. G.A. Keir

Clerk to the Committee:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health:

J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Public Health Department Staff:

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk  
Miss M. Leader



To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey  
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1957.

According to the Registrar-General's estimate, the population of the Island is now 28,200, an increase of 90. The natural increase in population, the excess of births over deaths, was 112.

Details of vital statistics for the three districts and the Island as a whole may be found in Tables I and II and it will be seen that -

(a) The birth rate was 15.8 per 1,000 population, exactly the same as in 1956 and also the same as the average for recent years.

(b) Although the death rate was 11.8 or 0.6 lower than last year, it was still higher than the average rate taken over the past seven years.

(c) The infant mortality rate was 26.9 per 1,000 live births as compared with 11.2 and 18.3 for the previous two years but Table I will show that over the past seven years this rate now is reduced to 25.9. Eleven of the 12 infants died within one week of birth.

Although in recent years, the infant mortality rate for England & Wales has been considerably reduced and in 1957 reached a new low record of 23.0, this reduction has not been so pronounced in children under one week as in those who attained that age.

Table III shows the number of deaths attributed to Cancer of the Lung for the past eight years and although 1957 was slightly better than the last four years, it means that this was the cause of 1 in every 25 deaths, or for males alone, 1 in every 17. The Ministry of Health issued a circular during the year to local health authorities, requesting them to bring to the notice of the public the grave danger of excessive cigarette smoking.

Table IV gives details of infectious diseases in 1957 and recent years. There were fewer cases of both Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough in 1957 and although Measles increased, it was not very prevalent. There were 3 cases of Poliomyelitis, 1 of them paralytic type and all recovered. One outbreak of Food Poisoning accounted for 40 of the 41 cases notified, but fortunately the illness was very mild.

Table V shows how in all districts the death rate from tuberculosis has fallen in recent years. In the final section of the report are figures relating to School Medical Inspection of children on the Island.

Warning was given by the Ministry in June that Asian influenza would probably reach the country in the autumn, but it was also known that the epidemic would be comparatively mild. Very little vaccine for this particular type of virus was available, only sufficient to protect general practitioners, hospital staffs and others nursing sick in their own homes. The epidemic reached its highest about the middle of October and was mild. The Influenza epidemic altogether affected less than 20% of the whole population, but it was particularly noticed the high preponderance of school children who developed Influenza, between 60 - 80%. We had been advised that there was not natural immunity to the type of germ which spread from Asia, so it was difficult to account for the relatively small number of adults who developed the disease. Three deaths were attributed to the disease and all were adults, being 48, 65 and 70 years respectively.

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit visited the Island during September and October and centres were established in all three districts. Although the Director of the Service has not yet completed his detailed report of the Survey, he has informed me that a total of 6,614 persons attended, of which 2,462 were attending an X-ray for the first time. The number attending exceeded by over 1,000 the attendances made when the Unit visited the Island two years ago.

Although the Poliomyelitis vaccination scheme has suffered setbacks, a total of 1,048 children had received two injections by the end of the year. The County Council also decided to make Whooping Cough vaccine available and their proposals were approved by the Ministry of Health during the year.

I wish to thank Mr. Stobie, Engineer & Manager of the Sheppey Water Board, for his cooperation and assistance during the year, the Public Health Inspectors for their help in the preparation of this Report and the Chief Clerk, Mr. Pankhurst, who helps considerably in the smooth and efficient running of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Table I shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and the period 1951-1957 and Table II shows the chief Vital Statistics for the Island for the past 5 years.

TABLE I

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queenborough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1957	17.3	5.4	10.3	23.1
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1957	16.3	6.4	11.2	27.1
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1957	14.3	6.0	11.0	24.7
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1957	15.8	6.1	11.1	25.9



TABLE II

	Year	Estimated Population	Live Births			Deaths		Infant Deaths under 1 year		
			Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
Queenborough M.B.	1953	3,215	55	3 or 5.5%	17.1	31	9.6	1	0	18.2
	1954	3,230	55	3 or 5.5%	17.0	29	9.0	2	0	36.4
	1955	3,220	59	4 or 6.8%	18.3	26	8.1	0	0	0.0
	1956	3,230	55	5 or 9.1%	17.0	47	14.5	1	0	13.2
	1957	3,210	64	3 or 4.7%	19.9	42	13.1	3	0	46.9
Sheerness U.D.	1953	16,270	282	19 or 6.7%	17.3	188	11.5	12	1	42.5
	1954	15,810	275	17 or 6.2%	17.4	186	11.7	9	1	32.7
	1955	15,650	251	16 or 6.3%	16.0	173	11.0	4	0	15.9
	1956	15,450	254	15 or 5.9%	16.4	193	12.5	3	1	11.8
	1957	15,480	246	16 or 6.5%	15.9	189	12.2	4	1	16.2
Sheppey R.D.	1953	9,201	122	11 or 9.0%	13.3	91	9.9	3	1	24.6
	1954	9,300	133	10 or 7.5%	14.3	106	11.4	2	2	15.0
	1955	9,380	126	4 or 3.2%	13.4	102	10.9	4	1	31.7
	1956	9,430	135	8 or 5.9%	14.3	109	11.6	1	0	7.4
	1957	9,510	136	10 or 7.3%	14.3	103	10.8	5	0	36.7
Isle of Sheppey	1953	28,686	459	33 or 7.1%	16.0	310	10.8	16	2	34.8
	1954	28,340	463	30 or 6.5%	16.3	321	11.3	13	3	28.1
	1955	28,250	436	24 or 5.5%	15.4	301	10.6	8	1	18.3
	1956	28,110	444	28 or 6.3%	15.8	349	12.4	5	1	11.2
	1957	28,200	446	29 or 6.5%	15.8	334	11.8	12	1	26.9

# MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The following table shows the deaths from the above during the past eight years with age and sex distribution.

TABLE III

Year	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	Totals
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
1950	- -	2 -	3 -	3 -	1 1	1 -	10 1
1951	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	3 -
1952	1 -	2 -	3 -	2 -	2 1	- -	10 1
1953	- -	1 1	5 -	4 1	2 -	1 -	13 2
1954	- -	1 -	1 -	8 2	2 -	- -	12 2
1955	- -	1 -	4 -	8 1	7 -	- -	20 1
1956	- -	- -	4 1	3 2	5 -	- -	12 3
1957	- -	2 -	1 -	6 1	2 1	- -	11 2
Totals	1 -	9 1	22 1	35 7	22 3	2 -	91 12

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the incidence of infectious disease on the and during the past five years.

TABLE IV

	Year	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para. Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Ac. Encephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Typhoid
nborough M.B.	1953	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	1	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	1955	1	1	-	106	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	5	14	-	48	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	1957	1	1	-	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
rness U.D.	1953	7	32	-	34	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	6	107	-	3	4	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	1955	20	2	-	759	10	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	48	226	-	20	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	1957	4	9	-	127	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
pey R.D.	1953	9	29	-	115	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	5	115	-	6	10	5	-	-	-	-	1	14	-
	1955	2	6	-	460	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	9	89	-	59	13	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1957	12	67	-	70	10	-	1	1	-	-	-	41	-
of Sheppey	1953	16	62	-	159	14	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	12	273	-	11	14	7	-	-	1	-	2	14	1
	1955	23	9	-	1325	18	1	7	5	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	62	329	-	127	16	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
	1957	17	77	-	210	16	2	1	2	1	-	-	41	-

## TUBERCULOSIS

Table V shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926.

TABLE V

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Case Rate	Death Rate	Case Rate	Death Rate
Queenborough M.B.				
1926-1930	1.40	0.89	0.25	0.00
1931-1935	1.13	0.66	0.06	0.00
1936-1940	0.61	0.41	0.06	0.00
1941-1945	0.96	0.88	0.07	0.10
1946-1950	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.00
1956-1957	0.31	0.15	0.00	0.00
Sheerness U.D.				
1926-1930	1.12	0.80	0.28	0.00
1931-1935	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.10
1936-1940	0.65	0.43	0.18	0.00
1941-1945	0.55	0.49	0.09	0.00
1946-1950	0.93	0.41	0.10	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.19	0.06	0.00
1956-1957	0.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sheppey R.D.				
1926-1930	1.37	0.66	0.44	0.10
1931-1935	0.88	0.75	0.36	0.00
1936-1940	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.00
1941-1945	0.61	0.42	0.19	0.00
1946-1950	0.94	0.32	0.20	0.00
1951-1955	0.97	0.21	0.17	0.00
1956-1957	0.57	0.05	0.00	0.00
Isle of Sheppey				
1926-1930	1.22	0.80	0.31	0.00
1931-1935	0.88	0.65	0.26	0.10
1936-1940	0.54	0.40	0.15	0.00
1941-1945	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.00
1946-1950	0.95	0.39	0.13	0.00
1951-1955	0.78	0.19	0.10	0.00
1956-1957	0.76	0.03	0.00	0.00



I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke, the Chest Physician, for the following figures relating to Sanatorium treatment and Clinic attendances.

(i) Institutions to which patients were admitted during 1957 -

Keycol Sanatorium	...	...	18 patients
Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	1
Preston Hall	...	...	2
Grove Park Hospital	...	...	1

(ii) Patients from the Isle of Sheppey who attended the Chest Clinic during the year -

	Men	Women	Children B	G
Number of attendances made by				
new cases ... ..	100	73	30	25
Attendances made by contacts of				
new cases ... ..	12	33		131
Attendances made by old cases ...	444	415	80	72
Attendances made by contacts of				
old cases ... ..	11	55		274

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children on the Island during 1957 -

## (a) Number of inspections:

## (i) Periodic:

Entrants...	...	...	813
Second age group	...	...	494
Third age group.	...	...	245
Others. ...	...	...	829

(ii) Special Inspections ... .. 190

(iii) Re-Inspections ... .. 609

## (b) Number found to require treatment:

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table (c)	Total individual pupils
Entrants ... ..	15	27	42
Second age group . ...	41	3	44
Third age group .. ...	12	14	25
Other periodic inspections	32	16	48
Totals ...	100	60	159

## (c) Return of defects found by medical inspection:

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS No. of Defects		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
	10	6	3	1
(a) Vision	100	51	14	4
(b) Squint	6	26	2	1
(c) Other	5	2	1	-
(a) Hearing	3	11	1	-
(b) Otitis Media	3	13	-	1
(c) Other	3	-	-	-
or Throat	6	95	-	6
ch	6	8	-	-
hatic Glands	-	74	-	5
t and Circulation	1	10	-	1
s	11	11	-	1
lopment:				
(a) Hernia	1	3	-	-
(b) Other	4	8	1	-
opaedic:				
(a) Posture	1	8	-	-
(b) Flat feet	4	17	1	2
(c) Other	7	15	-	1
ous system:				
(a) Epilepsy	-	1	-	-
(b) Other	-	2	-	-
hological:				
(a) Development	6	6	-	-
(b) Stability	2	11	4	-
men	-	2	-	1
r	3	4	1	-
Totals	182	384	28	24

(d) Classification of general health of pupils inspected during the year -

Age groups	No. of pupils Inspected	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Entrants ... ..	813	803	10
Second. ... ..	494	494	-
Third.. ... ..	245	245	-
Others. ... ..	829	828	1
Totals ...	2381	2370	11

(e) Defective vision and squint:

Number of defects dealt with

Errors of refraction (including squint) ... ..	358
Other defects or diseases of the eyes	1
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ... ..	85

(f) Dental inspection and treatment:

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers.. ... ..	303
Number found to require treatment ... ..	145
Number actually treated ... ..	317
Attendances made by pupils for treatment ..	1675

(g) Infestation with vermin:

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ... ..	5136
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested ... ..	71
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act, 1944) ... ..	38



## QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

1957

Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Deputy-Mayor:

Alderman E. Thompson

Aldermen:

Mrs. M. Dobner R. D. Sharrock

Councillors:

S. J. W. Byrne

F. E. Cackett

H. C. Carter

D. Cunningham

W. Flanagan

H. G. Harris

S. Houldershaw

\*G. H. Lerpiniere

H. F. Quaintance

D. H. Thomsett

A. F. Wilby

Miss D. L. Wood

\*Chairman of Health Committee

Town Clerk:

F. Marshall

Surveyor &amp; Public Health Inspector:

W. F. Dodds

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1957.

The birth rate was 19.9 per 1,000 population, higher than the rates for the past few years. The corrected rate was 20.3 as compared with 16.1 for England & Wales.

Although there were 5 less deaths than in 1956, the total of 42 was still above the average for the Borough. The crude death rate was 13.1 and the corrected rate 14.7. For England & Wales it was 11.5. The average for the Borough for the past 10 years has been 10.2.

There were no still-births registered but 3 deaths of infants under one year of age give an infant death rate of 46.9 per 1,000 live births. This rate in particular varies greatly in a small population and the average over the past 10 years is 30.3. For England & Wales this rate was 23.0 in 1957.

There was very little infectious disease notified during the year and although the Borough did not escape the influenza epidemic in October, no deaths were caused by it.

The slum clearance programme made good progress and 15 houses were dealt with and 7 others demolished.

Once again I wish to thank Mr. Dodds, the Surveyor & Public Health Inspector, for the excellent work he has performed, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## . AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water	...	...	...	...	5	) 1,103
Land	...	...	...	...	1098	

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 622 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

## . POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar- General					
for mid-1957	...	...	...	...	3,210

This figure is 20 less than the 1956 estimate. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 22 in 1957.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	...	1,023
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RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	£37,535
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SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	£154
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## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. BIRTHS

(a)	Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
	Legitimate .....	29 (26)	32 (24)	61 (50)
	Illegitimate .....	3 (3)	- (2)	3 (5)
	Totals .....	32 (29)	32 (26)	64 (55)
(b)	Birth Rate			
	Crude rate per 1,000 population .....			19.9 (17.0)
	Corrected rate .....			20.3 (17.5)
	Rate for England & Wales .....			16.1 (15.6)
(c)	Still-births	Males	Females	Totals
	Legitimate .....	- (-)	- (2)	- (2)

#### 2. DEATHS

(a) A total of 42 deaths were registered of which 25 were males and 17 females. This is 5 less than the total in 1956.

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	13.1 (14.5)
Corrected rate .....	14.7 (16.3)
Rate for England & Wales .....	11.5 (11.7)

(b) Table I shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 heading based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Heart disease and associated conditions account for 21 of the 42 deaths as compared with 22 in 1956, respiratory diseases for 5 as compared with 10, and 5 were due to various forms of cancer as compared with 8 the year before.



TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough ....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach . ...	2 (1)	- (1)	2 (2)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	2 (1)	- (1)	2 (2)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ...	- (-)	- (2)	- (2)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
16. Diabetes. ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	3 (4)	4 (3)	7 (7)
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	3 (9)	2 (1)	5 (10)
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)
20. Other heart disease ... ..	3 (1)	3 (3)	6 (4)
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
22. Influenza ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23. Pneumonia ... ..	- (2)	- (2)	- (4)
24. Bronchitis ... ..	4 (4)	- (1)	4 (5)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis. ... ..	- (-)	2 (-)	2 (-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2 (2)	2 (1)	4 (3)
33. Motor vehicle accidents. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
34. All other accidents ... ..	- (2)	1 (-)	1 (2)
35. Suicide.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes ... ..	25 (29)	17 (18)	42 (47)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1956)

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred -

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	8	5	-
Females	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	6	2

The average age at death was 61.9 (67.4 in 1956), being 62.0 (66.6) for the males and 61.7 (68.7) for the females. The oldest male was 84 and the oldest female 89 years.

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

Three infant deaths were recorded in 1957 giving an infant mortality rate of 46.9 per 1,000 live births. This is the highest rate since 1948. As I have mentioned before however, this rate does fluctuate in a small population, and taken over the past ten years still shows a downward trend as the following figures illustrate -

Rate for 10 years	1918-1927	.....	80.3
-do-	1928-1937	.....	59.1
-do-	1938-1947	.....	36.6
-do-	1948-1957	.....	30.3

All of the deaths occurred within one week of birth and it is this early age group that is most resistant to a reduction in mortality. Details of the deaths are given in the following table

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of birth	Place of death
Cerebral haemorrhage				
Birth trauma - excessive moulding .....	M	1 minute	Home	Home
Prematurity (10 weeks) .....	F	7 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Duodenal atresia (Operation duodenojejunoscopy)				
Mongolism .....	F	1 week	Hospital	Hospital

## SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

Only 17 cases of infectious disease were notified. One case of Scarlet Fever occurred - there have been only 8 in the last seven years - and one of Whooping Cough. Of the 13 cases of Measles, 5 occurred in January at the end of the small 1956 epidemic and the other 8 cases occurred during June and July.

Table IV shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year.

TABLE IV

Disease	At all ages	Age groups										
		Under 1 year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough .. ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles ... ..	13	1	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia .. ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals ...	17	-	3	3	3	1	4	1	1	-	1	-

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1956, removal to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1956)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	(5)	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	(14)	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Measles. ... ..	13	(48)	4	9	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ..	1	(1)	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas .. ...	-	(1)	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Non-Para .. ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis - Infective ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Post-infectious. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Typhoid. ... ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-
Malaria. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ... ..	1	(1)	1	-	1	1
Totals ... ..	17	(71)	6	11	1	1



## TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified, discovered by the Mass Radiography Unit, and one death also occurred, a man of 67 years. This was the first death from the disease since 1952. No new cases of the non-pulmonary form were notified.

Table VI gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1957 ..	19	15	3	-	37
New notifications ... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths during year ... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district. ... ..	-	1	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1957 ...	19	14	3	-	36

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The County Medical Officer has supplied me with the following figures of Queenborough children who received two injections against Poliomyelitis during 1957 -

Year of Birth	Number Vaccinated
1954	2
1953	1
1952	3
1951	6
1950	21
1949	27
1948	29
1947	<u>29</u>
Total	<u>118</u>

## 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1957	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1957	Total number Immunised at end of 1957
1957	3	-	3
1956	28	-	33
1955	5	1	39
1954	-	-	34
1953	2	1	49
1952	-	9	55
1951	1	4	53
1950	-	1	30
1949	-	-	45
1948	-	-	56
1947	-	-	51
1946	-	-	31
1945	-	-	43
1944	-	-	51
1943	-	1	34
Totals	39	17	607

These figures show that approximately 70% of children aged between 1 and 5 years have been immunised.

## 5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary	Re-vaccinations
Under 1 .....	11 (7)	- (-)
1 to 4 .....	11 (24)	- (-)
5 to 14 .....	- (1)	1 (1)
15 and over ....	1 (7)	- (3)
Totals .	23 (39)	1 (4)

Figures for recent years show that only about 50% of children aged between 1 and 5 years have been vaccinated against Smallpox.

## SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## WATER SUPPLY

In an attempt to remove the discolouration due to iron in the water oxidizing on contact with the air, the Sheppey Water Board installed aerating towers and settling tanks, and this has resulted in a marked improvement in the quality, although some parts of the Borough are still occasionally troubled. An increase in pressure which was afforded, has also benefited those areas which formerly had a poor supply.

The following are details of samples taken by the Water Board and the Health Department -

	No. of samples	No. of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Faecal Coli
Untreated ...	48	-	-
Treated .....	22	-	3

The storage tank from which the three unsatisfactory results were obtained was immediately put out of action and cleansed.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and the Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide. Complaint of a nuisance caused by these outfalls was made by the Port of London Health Authority and in an effort to eradicate this it is proposed to replace the existing tidal flaps by manually operated valves so that sewage will only be discharged at suitable states of the tide.

The only houses in the Borough not on main drainage are at Her Cottages, about half a mile from the town, where 18 houses are served by three cesspools.

## DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site near Her Cottages. Monthly applications of a tip dressing to prevent breeding and periodical baiting for rodents is carried out. Infestations were observed during the year.

## SCHOOLS SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements at the Schools are satisfactory.

## 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two public conveniences, both for males only, situated in South Street and Railway Terrace, but it is hoped that modern public conveniences for both sexes, sited in Rushenden Road, will be completed in 1958.

## 6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

- (a) Two rooms were disinfected after infectious disease.
- (b) Only two disinfestations were required during the year and these were both for cockroaches.

## 7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Ditches were again sprayed periodically with Malariol for the suppression of mosquito breeding. There were no complaints of serious nuisance.

## 8. RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations by rats .....	17
Number of infestations by mice .....	4
Number treated by local authority .....	20

All complaints are dealt with by the Council except for the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works, where a disinfestation firm is employed at six-weekly intervals.

A sewer test was carried out during the year but no takes were revealed at any of the 25 manholes baited.

## 9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 10. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Throat swabs .....	2
Blood .....	2
Faeces .....	3



## HOUSING

The following figures show building progress during 1957 and since the end of the war -

	During 1957	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Completed .....	10	194
Under construction .....	6	-
Private enterprise:		
Completed .....	-	8

The houses built and under construction were all 3-bedroomed type in blocks of four. The following is an analysis of the 274 houses owned by the Council -

	Pre-war	Post-war	Total
Bungalows .....	8	18	26
Non-parlour 2-bedroomed .....	-	40	40
Non-parlour 3-bedroomed .....	63	36	99
Parlour 2-bedroomed .....	-	6	6
Parlour 3-bedroomed .....	9	94	103

At the end of the year there were 79 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details -

Queenborough residents in rooms .....	27
in flats or houses .....	18
Residents outside Queenborough in rooms .....	26
in flats or houses .....	8

Progress was made with the slum clearance programme and representations were made on Nos.77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 89 and 91 High Street. As these houses were considered to be of historical importance, they were made the subject of a Preservation Order under the Town & Country Planning Acts.

The South Street Clearance Order was made and included Nos.26 and 28 South Street and Daisy Cottage.

Individual Demolition Orders were made on Nos.29 and 31 High Street.

Undertakings by the owners not to relet were given in respect of No.11 South Street and Nos.73 and 75 High Street.

Seven houses were actually demolished during the year, viz., Nos.13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 South Street.

3. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below -

### Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	...
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...

### Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec 17(1) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...
Houses closed under Sec 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	...	...	...	...
Parts of buildings closed under Sec 18 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...
Houses closed under Sec 17 (3) and 26	...	...	...	...	...
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...

### Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:					
Houses remedied by owners	...	...	...	...	...
Houses remedied by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...
Housing Act 1957 - formal notice - Sections 9 and 16:					
Houses remedied by owners	...	...	...	...	...
Houses remedied by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...

### Improvement grants

Number of applications approved	...	...	2
Total cost	...	...	£455
Total grants made	...	...	£114

### Rent Act 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...
Undertakings by Landlord after service of Form J	...	...	...
Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	...	...	...

## SECTION VI

## FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

## MILK

There are no producers in the district but ten distributors tail the following designations -

Pasteurised .....	3
T.T. (Pasteurised) .....	2
Sterilised .....	7

## ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. x premises are registered for its sale and all retail pre-  
checked well-known makes. There are also two itinerant vendors  
to visit the district regularly during the summer.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections are made of butchers' shops, factory  
ateens and other food preparing places. The following foods  
re found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily  
rendered -

24 lb corned beef  
12 lb jellied veal  
48 x 11 oz tins oranges

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and sent  
the Glue & Chemical Works for processing, whilst tinned and  
her foods are buried on the Council's tip.

## FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food  
Drugs Act 1955, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 -

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, sale and storage .....	6	28
Sausages, manufacture .....	2	16
Dairy .....	1	4

(b) 68 inspections were made of 33 other food premises, an analysis of which by type of business appears below -

Butchery	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocery	...	...	...	...	...	5
General stores	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmonger	..	...	...	...	...	1
Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	1
Baker and confectioner.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cafe	...	...	...	...	...	3
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public houses	...	...	...	...	...	6

## 5. FISH FRYING

There is only one fish frying establishment and this is always clean and well kept.

## 6. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

By courtesy of Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year -

Blackcurrant Juice Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	1
Currants	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ginger Marmalade	.	...	...	...	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lemon Juice	.	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	10
Murine Eye Drops	.	...	...	...	...	1
Nutritive Salts	..	...	...	...	...	1
Orange Curd	.	...	...	...	...	1
Pure Honey	...	...	...	...	...	1
Seedless Raisins	.	...	...	...	...	1
Strawberry Jam	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whisky	.	...	...	...	...	1

All of the above samples were genuine.



## SECTION VII

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (mechanical power) ...	10	141	-
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	1	12	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	2	2	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) - unsuitable or defective ..	2	1	-	-

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Number of outworkers ... .. Nil.



## APPENDIX B

## Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1957

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage reconstructed.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks, repaired or renewed..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Water supplies, defects remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dampness remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Wall plaster renewed ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fireplaces and stoves repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Yard paving repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse receptacles provided.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Accumulations of refuse abated ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Keeping of animals abated ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1957

Chairman:

W. C. Butterworth J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

A. H. Copland

Councillors:

B. J. Buckwell  
A. G. Coats, J.P.  
R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.  
E. F. Knight, J.P.  
H. A. Snook  
A. F. Standen, M.B.E.  
R. W. Stone  
Mrs. E. Tiltman  
J. G. Ward  
H. L. Wise

Health Committee:

Chairman:

A. H. Copland

Councillors:

W. C. Butterworth, J.P.  
A. F. Standen, M.B.E.  
R. W. Stone  
Mrs. E. Tiltman  
J. G. Ward

Clerk of the Council:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Senior Public Health Inspector:

D. E. Jacob, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

G. L. Almond, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Public Health Department,  
Trinity Road,  
Sheerness.

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1957.

According to the Registrar-General's figure, the population of the town has stopped falling and is now 15,480, an increase of 30 over 1956. The birth rate of 15.9 per 1,000 of the population was lower than last year's, but the corrected rate of 17.2 is still higher than 16.1 for England & Wales. The illegitimate rate was about average.

There were slightly fewer deaths, 189 as compared with 193, but the rate of 12.2 is a little above the average for the town. The corrected rate of 12.9 is higher than the England & Wales rate of 11.5.

Although the still-birth rate was higher than last year, the infant death rate was again very low, for the third successive year. This was 16.2, the rate for England & Wales being 23.0. Taken over the past ten years, Sheerness has a very satisfactory rate of 23.5.

Except for a small epidemic of Measles, there was very little notifiable infectious disease, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough being almost absent. Only one case of non-paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred and the child made a good recovery.

A great deal of the slum clearance programme was completed during the year, a total of 100 houses being dealt with in clearance areas, demolition or closing orders and there are now only 131 houses remaining from the original programme.

I would like to thank Mr. Jacob, the Senior Public Health Inspector for the able manner in which he has carried out his duties and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA           ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   943 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General  
for mid-1957           ...   ...   ...   ...   15,480

This figure is 30 more than the 1956 estimate.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES           ...   ...   ...   4,729

4. RATEABLE VALUE           ...   ...   ...   ...   £175,521

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE (estimated) .   £700

## SECTION II

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate... ..	112 (118)	118 (121)	230 (239)
Illegitimate... ..	9 (10)	7 (5)	16 (15)
Totals ...	121 (128)	125 (126)	246 (254)

Illegitimate births were 6.5% of the total births as compared with 5.9% last year.

## (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population..	15.9	(16.4)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ..	17.2	(17.9)
Rate for England & Wales ... ..	16.1	(15.6)

## (c) Still-births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate... ..	5 (2)	4 (2)	9 (4)
Illegitimate... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

The still-birth percentage of the total (live and still) births was 3.5% and this is nearly double the average for the district.

## DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes in 1957 was 89, 4 less than in 1956. 107 were males and 82 females.

## (b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population..	12.2	(12.5)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population ..	12.9	(13.2)
Rate for England & Wales ... ..	11.5	(11.7)

(c) The following table shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

51% of the deaths were due to heart diseases and associated conditions as compared with 58% in 1956; there were in fact 16 less deaths from these causes. Nearly 23% of the total were due to various forms of cancer - an increase of 7% and 14 more deaths - and 13% were assigned to diseases of the respiratory system from which there were 6 more deaths than in 1956.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1956).

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1.Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2.Tuberculosis, other ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3.Syphilitic disease.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4.Diphtheria ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5.Whooping Cough. ... ..	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
6.Meningococcal infections. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7.Acute Poliomyelitis. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8.Measles .. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9.Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10.Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ...	4 (5)	2 (2)	6 (7)
11.Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. ..	5 (5)	1 (2)	6 (7)
12.Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	- (-)	1 (2)	1 (2)
13.Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	- (-)	4 (1)	4 (1)
14.Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms..	15 (9)	11 (4)	26 (13)
15.Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	- (1)	2 (-)	2 (1)
16.Diabetes.. ... ..	- (-)	- (2)	- (2)
17.Vascular lesions of nervous system. ..	12 (14)	13 (20)	25 (34)
18.Coronary disease, angina. ... ..	23 (20)	9 (6)	32 (26)
19.Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	4 (2)	1 (2)	5 (4)
20.Other heart disease. ... ..	14 (19)	17 (24)	31 (43)
21.Other circulatory disease ... ..	1 (1)	2 (4)	3 (5)
22.Influenza. ... ..	1 (-)	2 (-)	3 (-)
23.Pneumonia. ... ..	2 (2)	7 (2)	9 (4)
24.Bronchitis ... ..	9 (6)	2 (7)	11 (13)
25.Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2 (1)	- (1)	2 (2)
26.Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ... ..	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
27.Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28.Nephritis and Nephrosis.. ... ..	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (2)
29.Hyperplasia of prostate . ... ..	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (2)
30.Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31.Congenital malformations. ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
32.Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5 (10)	6 (7)	11 (17)
33.Motor vehicle accidents.. ... ..	3 (-)	- (-)	3 (-)
34.All other accidents. ... ..	2 (3)	1 (1)	3 (4)
35.Suicide... ... ..	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
36.Homicide and operations of war ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes... ... ..	107 (104)	82 (89)	189 (193)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1956)



(d) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred -

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	2	-	1	1	1	2	12	14	36	31	7
Females	2	1	-	-	-	2	10	9	16	31	11

The average age at death was 67.5 (70.5 in 1956), being 66.6 (67.7) for the males and 68.6 (73.8) for the females. The oldest person was a female aged 95, but 2 other males and 2 other females reached the age of 90. The death of the child of 5 was due to a road accident and the child of 2 to broncho-pneumonia.

### INFANT MORTALITY

Only 4 infant deaths were recorded, giving a rate of 16.2 per 1,000 live births. All the children were less than one week old. This is the third successive year that this rate has been very low and taken over the past 10 years, the rate is only 23.5, a very much better record than the similar period ending 1947, when it was 45.8.

The following table gives particulars of the 4 deaths.

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Asphyxia Immature development of heart and great vessels (patent ductus arteriosus and foramen ovale) with atelectasis of right lung.	M	1 hour	Home	Home
Pulmonary Oedema Intracranial haemorrhage Tearing of the Falx Cerebri during birth	F	19 hours	Home	Hospital
Immaturity	M	1 day	Hospital	Hospital
Pneumonia Immaturity	F	6 days	Hospital	Hospital

## SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES  
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. There were 167 cases of infectious disease notified in 1957 as compared with 313 in 1956, the decrease being due to the fact that there was no big epidemic of Whooping Cough as in the previous year, only 9 cases being reported as compared with 226. Scarlet Fever was also almost absent, the 4 cases being the lowest figure for many years. The majority of the 120 cases of Measles occurred during June and July and then another epidemic started in December and carried on into 1958. One case of Dysentery was notified but no cause was discovered.

There was one case of Poliomyelitis and that was of the non-paralytic type. The child was removed to isolation hospital and made a good recovery. No deaths occurred from any of these diseases but throughout the whole year, there were 9 due to pneumonia, a much higher figure than usual.

The epidemic of Influenza started towards the end of September and reached its peak during the second week of October. It was a mild form of the disease, but caused three deaths in the town. The age and sex distribution of the deaths associated with the Influenza epidemic were as follows -

Lobar pneumonia  
Influenza           ...   ...   ... Male       48 years

Acute Chronic Bronchitis  
Influenza           ...   ...   ... Female   70 years

Broncho-pneumonia  
Influenza           ...   ...   ... Female   65 years

Table IV below shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year.

Disease	Total	Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64
Scarlet Fever   ...   ...   ...	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough   ...   ...   ...	9	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles       ...   ...   ...	127	3	6	13	17	11	72	5	1	1	1
Erysipelas   ..   ...   ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Pneumonia   ...   ...   ...	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery   ...   ...   ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis - Non-Para	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.   ...	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	8
Totals.       ...	167	7	8	16	17	12	76	6	3	5	13

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1956, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1956)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1956)
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	(48)	3	1	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough ... ..	9	(226)	1	8	-	-	(1)
Diphtheria... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles... ..	127	(20)	64	63	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ..	5	(2)	3	2	2	9	(4)
Erysipelas .. ...	2	(3)	2	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para . ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para .. ...	1	(-)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective .. ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-infectious. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery ... ..	1	(-)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Interperal Pyrexia. ... ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning ... ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ... ..	18	(12)	14	4	11	-	(-)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals .. ...	167	(313)	88	79	14	9	(5)



## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

18 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, the highest figure since 1947. This was due to the fact that the Mass Radiography Unit picked up 6 of the cases.

In spite of this increase in the incidence of the disease, I am able to report once again that no deaths were recorded. The deaths in the 10-year period ending 1947 have been halved in the past 10 years, and show signs of being reduced even further.

No cases or deaths occurred of the non-pulmonary form of the disease.

The following table gives a summary of the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1957 ..	84	66	9	19	178
New notifications ... ..	14	4	-	-	18
Transfers into district ... ..	3	3	-	-	6
Deaths of cases not due to Tuberculosis ... ..	2	1	-	-	3
Removed from district. ... ..	2	1	-	1	3
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1957 ...	97	71	9	18	195

## 3. POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to Sheerness children vaccinated against Poliomyelitis during 1957.

Year of Birth	No. Vaccinated
1954	25
1953	25
1952	35
1951	41
1950	132
1949	116
1948	119
1947	152

Total 645



## 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1957	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1957	Total number Immunised at end of 1957
1957	19	-	19
1956	140	-	159
1955	29	-	184
1954	4	-	204
1953	6	7	206
1952	4	63	229
1951	1	11	229
1950	-	6	278
1949	1	13	274
1948	-	5	202
1947	1	7	182
1946	-	2	133
1945	1	-	123
1944	-	-	124
1943	-	-	123
Totals	206	114	2669

These figures show that approximately 72% of children aged between 1 and 5 have been immunised.

## 5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 .. ...	71 (95)	- (-)
1 to 4 ... ..	102 (89)	2 (7)
5 to 14 ... ..	22 (8)	5 (8)
15 and over ...	19 (18)	17 (22)
Totals ...	214 (210)	24 (37)

From figures of recent years, it is estimated that about 55% of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years have been vaccinated.

## SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLY

For a second year, the consumers in the Sheerness area have received benefit from an island water authority, in that water from outside their area has been supplied in greater quantities to Sheerness, to limit the curtailments in supply of previous years. The curtailments in the summer lasted 3 months compared to an average of 8 months previously. No major improvement works have been possible, but a strict control over wastage has been maintained, and many sundry minor improvements to the distribution system carried out.

During the year, Water Byelaws came into force for the first time in the area, and the interests of the Board's consumers are now safeguarded as all private work carried out in private properties is subject to inspection and approval by the Board.

Samples taken by the Board and the Health Department totalling 141 and the results of bacteriological examination are shown below.

Supply	Number of samples	Number of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Faecal Coli
Trinity Road -			
Untreated ...	46	2	-
Treated .....	24	2	-
Sheerness East -			
Untreated ...	47	-	-
Treated .....	24	-	-

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide.

Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at the West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but is not otherwise treated.

There has been no necessity to carry out any major works during the year. Provision was made for overhaul of the detritus screening and sludge removal machinery at the Canal Bank pumping station.

. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

All refuse from Sheerness is transported to the Scrapsgate tip in the Sheppey Rural District.

. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools are on main drainage with efficient flushing apparatus. Cooking and washing up arrangements at the canteens are very satisfactory. A new County Primary School in St. George's Avenue was erected during the year and opened in the spring of 1958.

. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The construction of the new conveniences for both sexes in Royal Road was commenced in October and on their completion will replace the existing unsatisfactory premises in that area and will also provide additional accommodation for females.

. PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths - Facilities for both sexes exist at the Wood Street Baths (3 male and 3 female). These were used by an average of about 60 men and 30 women weekly during the year.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool - This pool is open from midsummer until September approximately. The sea water in the pool is purified by continuous filtration and chlorination and ten samples taken for bacteriological examination showed excellent results. It is estimated that about 30 - 40,000 persons use the pool during the season.

. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The lethal chambers supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and maintained by the Council for the destruction of sick and aged animals were used for 176 cats and 79 dogs during 1957, 25 animals more than the year before. 7 of these were strays brought in by the Police.

. CAMPING SITES

There are three licensed sites for summer visitors situated at -

- Cheyney Rock - 25 caravans
- Seabreeze Camp - 33 caravans
- Ravelin Battery - 82 caravans



These camps have mains water supply and drainage connected to the Council's sewers and adequate closet and washing facilities. Refuse collections are made weekly by the Council. The camps were maintained and conducted satisfactorily throughout the year.

After the Council's approval had been obtained, chalets were erected to displace some of the caravans at Seabreeze Camp.

## 9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) 17 premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of 60 disinfestations -

	Council houses		Other houses	
	Houses	Rooms	Houses	Rooms
Bugs ... ..	2	2	3	8
Fleas .. ...	4	16	18	58
Cockroaches . ...	-	-	8	-
Ants ... ..	4	-	9	-
Beetles. ... ..	5	-	6	-
Silverfish .. ...	1	-	-	-

## 10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

From early spring until autumn it is the practice to spray ditches with Malariol in order to prevent larvae from developing into winged adults. In an effort to leave no loopholes, this work was done in liaison with the Admiralty and the War Department.

The No.5 Housing Site will be completed early in 1958. The ditches in the area are obstructed by deposits of garden refuse and pockets of stagnant water accumulate. These potential breeding ground would be removed by piping in of the ditches.

## 11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface infestations -

Number of properties inspected after complaint..	...	124
Number found to be infested by rats...	...	38
Number found to be infested by mice ..	...	73

There were 47 fewer complaints than in 1956 and the number of infestations by rats and mice decreased by 2 and 23 respectively. Five business premises are included in the above figures and a charge is made to them, but domestic premises receive a free service.



## (b) Sewers -

Test baiting - 34 manholes - 3 takes  
 Maintenance treatment - 61 manholes baited  
                                     46 pre-bait takes  
                                     34 complete pre-bait takes.

Although there is an increase in the number of baits taken, the use of a bait preservative now gives more effective treatment and should further reduce the small rat population of the sewers.

## 12. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 13. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The Council considered there was no need for smoke control areas in the district. With the exception of the Gas Works at West Minster, none of the industrial premises create atmospheric pollution. The increased use of oil heaters for space heating has been very considerable.

## 14. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

By maintaining contact with the County District Officer, the needs of several old people requiring care and attention have been met without formal orders for removal.

## 15. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Water .....	48
Milk .....	48
Ice Cream .....	11
Faeces .....	2

## SECTION V

## HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1957 and the total since the war -

		During 1957	Total built since the war
Council houses:			
Temporary, completed	... ..	-	46
Permanent, completed	... ..	92	765
Permanent, under construction	.	14	-
Other houses:			
Permanent, completed	... ..	4	37
Permanent, under construction	.	2	-

## 2. SLUM CLEARANCE

Housing has again occupied a large part of the Health Department's activities. The year saw further substantial progress in dealing with the Council's slum clearance programme. Completion of rehousing of families and demolition of houses in the Hope Street No.2 Compulsory Purchase Order 1954 and the Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1955 was achieved and the sites made available for construction of four blocks of flats which were commenced in October.

Good progress was made in rehousing the tenants from the Broad Street and Short Street Compulsory Purchase Orders and by the end of the year the major part of this rehousing had been completed for site redevelopment in 1958. Rehousing of families from the Sheppey Street area proposed for redevelopment in 1958 commenced later in the year.

A further 13 Compulsory Purchase Orders comprising a total of 85 houses were made and Demolition Orders and Closing Orders made on 15 houses. This leaves only 131 houses from the original programme and 32 of these were included in three areas prepared at the end of the year and represented early in 1958.

3. Ten Demolition Orders under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 were made on the following properties -

King Street: Nos.9, 15  
 Chapel Street: No.28  
 Short Street: No.5  
 Kent Street: Nos.3, 10  
 West Passage: No.7  
 Rose Street: Nos.13, 15, 17

Houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal action under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 -

Wood Street: Nos.36, 38  
 Hope Street: Nos.94, 96  
 North Street: Nos.6, 8, 10, 12, 12A  
 Short Street: No.5  
 King Street: No.15  
 Chapel Street: Nos.26, 28  
 Rose Street: Nos.41, 43, 45

4. Closing Orders under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made on the following five houses -

Montague Road: No.18  
 Union Street: No.15  
 High Street: Nos.234, 236  
 Cross Street: No.4A

5. The following 80 houses in Clearance Areas were demolished during the year -

Unfit houses -

Hope Street Alley: Nos.1, 2, 3  
 Newton's Court: Nos.1, 2, 3  
 Broad Street: Nos.48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58  
 Hope Street: Nos.102, 104, 11, 13, 65  
 Short Street: Nos.20, 22, 32, 28, 30  
 North Street Passage: Nos.7, 8  
 Russell Street: Nos.53, 55, 57, 59, 66, 68, 70, 72  
 100, 102, 104  
 South Street: Nos.1, 3, 5, 7  
 Bell Alley: Nos.37, 39, 41, 45  
 Hope Street: Nos.77, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 95A, 97,  
 99, 84, 86, 83A, 85A, 87A, 89A,  
 91A, 101, 103  
 Russell Street: Nos.74, 74A, 76, 76A, 78, 80, 82,  
 84, 86, 88, 92, 94, 96, 98

Houses included by reason of bad arrangement -

Russell Street: No.90

Houses on land acquired under Section 43 for purpose of redevelopment -

Broad Street: Nos.62, 64, 66  
 Russell Street: No.106

6. The following are details of the Compulsory Purchase Order which were made and confirmed during the year -

Sheppey Street Compulsory Purchase Order No.3 1957  
Sheppey Street: Nos.19, 21

King Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
King Street: Nos.10, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22  
Bethel Passage: Nos.2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14

Cross Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
Cross Street: Nos.9, 11, 13, 15, 17  
Russell Street Alley: 1A  
North Street: Nos.14, 16

Sheppey Street Compulsory Purchase Order No.1 1957  
Sheppey Street: Nos.3, 5

Sheppey Street Compulsory Purchase Order No.2 1957  
Sheppey Street: Nos.9, 11, 13, 15, 20  
School Lane: Nos.6, 7, 8, 9, 10

South Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
South Street: Nos.30, 32

Victory Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
Victory Street: Nos.23, 25, 27, 29

Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
Hope Street: Nos.40, 42

Spring Garden Passage Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
Spring Garden Passage: Nos.9, 10

Russell Street Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957  
Russell Street: Nos.30, 32, 34, 36, 38  
Bell Alley: Nos.19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31

Russell Street Compulsory Purchase Order No.2 1957  
Russell Street: Nos.8, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24  
10 (business) garage between 20 and 22  
Bell Alley: Nos.11, 13

Russell Street Compulsory Purchase Order No.3 1957  
Russell Street: Nos.27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41,  
43, 45, 47  
North Street: No.22

North Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1957  
North Street: Nos.1, 3, 5, 7, 9  
Short Street: No.1  
Railway Road: No.13, former 12 (business)



Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing summarised below -

### Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	75
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of families displaced from above	...	...	...	...	...	81

### Houses not in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	16
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 17 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	-
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	5
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total number of families displaced	..	...	...	...	...	17

### Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	129
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:	
Houses remedied by owners	1
Houses remedied by Local Authority	-
Housing Act 1957 - formal notice:	
Houses made fit by owners	-
Houses made fit by Local Authority	-

### RENT ACT 1957

Under this Act which came into operation in July 1957, 25 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, 5 undertakings were given and 16 Certificates of Disrepair issued. No applications for cancellation of certificates were received.

The Act should enable owners to maintain a better standard of repair than has been achieved in the past, although a few owners are not applying the rent increase apparently through their inability or reluctance to meet the initial cost of repairs.

## SECTION VI

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. There has been a continued steady improvement in equipping existing premises by the installation of refrigerated display cabinets and the further use of modern non-absorbent and readily cleansed materials for working surfaces.

## 2. MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area, but there is one pasteurising plant in operation. There are 37 registered distributors retailing the following designations -

Pasteurised .....	8
T.T. (Pasteurised) .....	2
Sterilised .....	35

48 samples of milk (24 pasteurised and 24 sterilised) were taken during the year and all passed the prescribed tests.

The Council received notice from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food of the proposal to include the district in a specified area for designated milks. For some time the supplies in the town have met these requirements and frequent check sampling has shown the designated milks to conform to the prescribed standards.

## 3. ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture .....	1
Premises registered for sale and storage .....	56

There is very little ice cream manufactured locally, almost all premises retailing pre-packed supplies of well-known manufacture. Of 11 samples taken during the year, 5 were Grade I, 5 Grade II and 1 Grade III. The grading is for bacterial standards and 80% of samples should be within Grades I and II.

## 4. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) The meat supplies continued to be obtained from wholesalers in the Canterbury and Chatham areas. Transport facilities for handling meat have been satisfactory.

(b) Condemned butchers' meat is collected by the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works after treatment with naphthalene green. Other food is buried at an adequate depth on the refuse tip.

(c) The following are details of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered -

Meat, fresh	...	...	...	...	296 lb
Bacon	...	...	...	...	1264 lb
Sausages	...	...	...	...	117 lb
Meat, tinned.	...	...	...	...	808 lb
Fish, fresh	...	...	...	...	2521 lb
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	2 gallons
Fish, tinned.	...	...	...	...	44 lb
Poultry, tinned	..	...	...	...	..7 lb
Butter	...	...	...	...	8 lb
Cheese	...	...	...	...	66 lb
Suet	...	...	...	...	2 lb
Milk, tinned.	...	...	...	...	52 lb
Cream, tinned	...	...	...	...	1 lb
Fruit, tinned	...	...	...	...	262 lb
Fruit, dried.	...	...	...	...	17 lb
Vegetables, tinned	...	...	...	...	160 lb
Soup, tinned	...	...	...	...	76 lb
Preserves	...	...	...	...	6 lb
Pudding, tinned	..	...	...	...	46 lb
Cake	...	...	...	...	76 lb
Cereals.	...	...	...	...	4 lb
Sweets	...	...	...	...	50 lb
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	22 lb
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	68 bottles

## FOOD PREMISES

(a) 76 inspections were made of the following premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-54 -

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, manufacture & sale	57	39
Preserved foods, manufacture	14	27
Dairy	1	10

(b) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below -

Hotels, cafes, restaurants	...	...	29
Groceries, general provisions	...	...	75
Butchers	...	...	12
Fish, wet	...	...	6
Fish, fried	...	...	9
Sweets, manufacture	...	...	1
Meat pies, manufacture.	...	...	1
Greengrocery.	...	...	24
Ships' chandlers	...	...	1
Confectionery and sweets	...	...	20
Bakeries	...	...	2

280 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

## 6. FISH FRYING

There are now eight fish frying establishments, one being closed when the premises were included in a slum clearance scheme. All have operated satisfactorily and without nuisance.

## 7. SHELLFISH

The Port of London Health Authority made an Order in July under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934, controlling the taking of molluscan shellfish for sale, the area including the whole of the Council's foreshore bordering the Thames. An earlier Order controlled the Council's foreshore on the Medway. Checks with retailers showed that no supplies were obtained from local waters.

## 8. BAKEHOUSES

There are now two bakehouses, the third having removed to larger premises in the adjoining district. These two are large, well equipped establishments. Accumulations of grease caused drainage obstructions at both during the year and were remedied by use of an appropriate detergent.



## FOOD &amp; DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of Mr. S. Strugnell Chief Inspector of the Weights & Measures Department of the Kent County Council -

Antiseptic Lozenges. ....	1	Plain Flour... ..	1
Brandy ... ..	1	Potter's No.1 Cough	
Bread and Butter ... ..	1	and Cold Cure .	1
Cake and Bun Mixture ... ..	1	Prepared Oranges ..	1
Cameron Syrup . ... ..	1	Pure Dairy Cream ..	1
Cornflour. ... ..	1	Ready-Brek ... ..	1
Cosylan... ..	1	Rock, Various Flavours .	11
Genaformint ... ..	1	Sauce ... ..	1
Gin... ..	1	Self-Raising Flour. ...	1
Grapefruit Segments. ... ..	1	Shortbread ... ..	2
Gravy Browning. ... ..	1	Shortcake ... ..	1
Ice Cream. ... ..	1	Shreddies ... ..	1
Marzipan.. ... ..	2	Vintage Malt Vinegar ...	1
Metatone . ... ..	1	Vita Glucose Tablets ...	1
Milk. ... ..	23	Vitaminised Iron	
Milk Chocolate Rolls ... ..	1	Tonic Tablets ... ..	1
Mint in Vinegar ... ..	1	Whisky... ..	1
Mustard Sauce . ... ..	1	White Pepper . ... ..	1

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following -

Bread and Butter	Bread spread with a mixture of 60% butter and 40% margarine.	A written caution was issued.
Milk	25% deficient in fat	This was a 'natural' fat deficiency. The producer was advised. Samples taken later were satisfactory.
Rock - Various Flavours	Outside coloured with Rhodamine B. (Rhodamine B non-permitted colour)	These samples of 'rock' were taken so that makers could be advised prior to the commencement of the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957.

## SECTION VII

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health -

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notice
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	6	3	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ...	45	21	-
Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises) ...	4	4	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found -

Nil.

## 3. Outwork

There are three outworkers in the district, all engaged in making wearing apparel. No action was necessary under Sections 110 and 111.



## APPENDIX B

## Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1957

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	22
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage, repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drainage, cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	38
Drainage, reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks, repaired or renewed..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped..	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	...	20
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dampness remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	22
Wall plaster renewed	..	...	...	...	...	18
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Windows and ventilation repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	...	18
Woodwork renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fireplaces and stoves renewed or repaired	.	...	...	...	...	7
Yard paving repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Refuse receptacles provided.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Washing copper renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse abated	..	...	...	...	...	3
Keeping of animals abated...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	12



## SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1957

Chairman:

Lt. Col. G. A. Keir, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

W/Cmr. W. E. James

Councillors:

H. E. Alltimes  
 H. A. Auty, B.A.  
 R. N. Bigg  
 G. K. Dawkins  
 A. P. Dummott  
 Mrs. H. Faulkner  
 G. Ingleton  
 H. C. Love  
 Miss E. M. Mills, C.C.  
 G. T. Parris  
 F. H. Purvis  
 W. W. White

Health Committee:

Chairman:

Miss E. M. Mills, C.C.

Councillors:

G. K. Dawkins  
 Mrs. H. Faulkner  
 W/Cmr. W. E. James  
 Lt.Col. G.A. Keir, J.P.  
 W. W. White

Clerk of the Council:

R. E. Gray  
 F.C.C.S.

Surveyor &amp; Public Health Inspector:

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

T. E. Davies

To the Sheppey Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1957.

The crude birth rate was the same as for 1957, namely 14.3 per 1,000 population while the corrected rate was 16.2 as compared with 16.1 for England & Wales. The illegitimate rate was high again, this year being above the average.

There were less deaths than the year before and the rate was 10.8. The corrected rate was 10.5 as compared with 11.5 for the whole country.

Both the still-birth rate and the infant mortality rate were above the average for the area, the infant death rate being 36.7 as compared with 23.0 for England & Wales. Taken over the past ten years however, this rate averages 24.1.

Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough were a little more prevalent than usual, but it was the visitors to the area who fared unhappily. Two children were removed to Isolation Hospital suffering from Poliomyelitis soon after their arrival for a holiday on the Island and both subsequently made good recovery. An outbreak of Food Poisoning at a holiday camp affected 40 holiday-makers. The outbreak was extremely mild and short-lived but was unsatisfactory inasmuch as the laboratory findings were inconclusive. Although the epidemic of Influenza in the autumn was considerable, no deaths were caused by the disease.

A potential danger to public health has been removed by the completion of the Leysdown main drainage scheme and the majority of premises in that area are now connected to the new system.

I wish to record with thanks the excellent work carried out by Mr. Brading, the Surveyor, Engineer & Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Davies, the Additional Public Health Inspector, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA ... 20,319 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated for mid-1957 by  
the Registrar-General ... 9,510

This figure is 80 higher than the previous year.  
The natural increase in population, that is the excess  
of births over deaths, was 33.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ... 3,415

4. RATEABLE VALUE ... £121,264

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE ... £498

## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. BIRTHS

##### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	64 (58)	62 (69)	126 (127)
Illegitimate .....	5 (3)	5 (5)	10 (8)
Total .....	69 (61)	67 (74)	136 (135)

The total number of births was one more than in 1956.  
10 (7.3%) were illegitimate.

##### (b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	14.3 (14.3)
Corrected rate .....	16.2 (16.3)
Rate for England & Wales .....	16.1 (15.6)

##### (c) Still-births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate .....	5 (4)	- (1)	5 (5)

Still-births were 3.5% of the total live and still births.

#### 2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths during 1957 was 103, of which 56 were males and 47 females. This total was 6 less than in 1956

##### (b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population .....	10.8 (11.6)
Corrected rate .....	10.5 (11.3)
Rate for England & Wales .....	11.5 (11.7)

(c) Table I shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. Of the 103 deaths, 51 were due to heart disease and associated conditions as compared with 58 last year, various forms of cancer were responsible for 23 as compared with 21, and 9 as compared with 7 were due to respiratory disease. 5 deaths were due to cancer of the lung, 2 of them being under 50 years of age.



TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1.Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
2.Tuberculosis, other. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3.Syphilitic disease.. ... ..	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
4.Diphtheria ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5.Whooping Cough. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6.Meningococcal infections. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7.Acute poliomyelitis. ... ..	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
8.Measles... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9.Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
0.Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	4 (3)	- (1)	4 (4)
1.Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus. ..	4 (6)	1 (-)	5 (6)
2.Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	- (-)	2 (2)	2 (2)
3.Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
4.Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms..	8 (6)	3 (3)	11 (9)
5.Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
6.Diabetes.. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7.Vascular lesions of nervous system. ..	4 (5)	11 (10)	15 (15)
8.Coronary disease, angina. ... ..	10 (11)	3 (6)	13 (17)
9.Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	1 (2)	1 (3)	2 (5)
0.Other heart disease. ... ..	8 (6)	9 (8)	17 (14)
1.Other circulatory disease ... ..	2 (4)	2 (3)	4 (7)
2.Influenza. ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3.Pneumonia. ... ..	3 (2)	1 (1)	4 (3)
4.Bronchitis. ... ..	2 (1)	3 (2)	5 (3)
5.Other diseases of respiratory system ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
6.Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ... ..	- (2)	2 (-)	2 (2)
7.Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea. ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
8.Nephritis and nephrosis.. ... ..	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (3)
9.Hyperplasia of prostate.. ... ..	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
0.Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
1.Congenital malformations. ... ..	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
2.Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	6 (5)	4 (3)	10 (8)
3.Motor vehicle accidents.. ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
4.All other accidents. ... ..	- (1)	2 (-)	2 (1)
5.Suicide... ..	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
6.Homicide and operations of war ... ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes. ... ..	56 (63)	47 (46)	103 (109)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1956)

(d) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred -

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	3	-	1	1	1	-	4	7	17	20	2
Females	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	16	13	6

The average age at death was 66.5 years (68.4 in 1956), being 64.5 for the males (67.8) and 68.8 for the females (69.3). The oldest male was 86 years and the oldest female 100 years.

### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

There were five infant deaths under the age of one year giving a rate of 36.7 per 1,000 live births, which is above the recent average. Taken over the past ten years however, this rate is satisfactory. Four of the five deaths occurred within one week of birth, the age group upon which ante-natal care has the least effect. The rate for England & Wales was again the lowest ever, viz., 23.0.

Details of the deaths are given in the following table -

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Exomphalus .....	F	30 minutes	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .....	M	10 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Pulmonary atelectasis Intra. ut. asphyxia .....	M	16 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Haemolytic disease of newborn Prematurity .....	M	3 days	Hospital	Hospital
Cachexia and dehydration Gross hydrocephalus .....	F	10 months	Hospital	Hospital

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

209 cases of infectious disease were notified in 1957. 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 67 of Whooping Cough occurred, both a little above the recent average for the area. The small epidemic of Measles at the end of 1956 continued into January of 1957 with 24 cases and for the next seven months cases occurred sporadically.

The majority of the Scarlet Fever occurred during the summer and as several attended the same class at Minster County Primary School, the whole class and teacher had nose and throat swabs taken. Swabs from 9 children were found to be positive for haemolytic streptococci and home contacts revealed a further 5 cases of streptococcal infection. Within a few days of treatment by their own doctors, all the children gave negative swabs and were allowed to return to School. Information on the subsequent history of the patients was supplied to the Public Health Laboratory Service who are making a survey of rheumatic fever and nephritis as complications of streptococcal infection. I must mention that the cooperation of the local practitioners, school nurses and the teachers was admirable.

An outbreak of Food Poisoning at one of the holiday camps affected 40 persons, chiefly children. Faeces specimens from the patients and staff, and swabs from potential sources of infection were submitted to the Laboratories. Although the results of bacteriological examination did not present conclusive evidence, the symptoms suggested a food poisoning organism with rapid onset, pointing to the causative agent being either staphylococcus or shigella and in my opinion cl. welchii food poisoning was the most likely cause of the outbreak. One isolated case of food poisoning also occurred and although known to be due to salmonella typhimurium, no samples of food were available at the time the investigation was made. No other cases occurred in the household however.

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 -
Scarlet Fever ... ..	12	1	1	1	1	2	8	2	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough .. ...	67	9	5	6	11	9	23	3	1	1	1	1
Measles ... ..	70	5	5	7	10	7	33	3	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia .. ...	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	6
Ac. Poliomyelitis - Para ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-Para	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum. ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning... ..	41	1	4	5	4	5	12	7	1	2	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Totals ...	209	15	15	19	25	23	77	15	4	4	6	6



Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1956, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1956)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	12	(9)	5	7	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	67	(89)	34	33	1	-
Diphtheria... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Measles ... ..	70	(59)	32	38	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ..	10	(13)	6	4	2	4
Erysipelas .. ...	-	(2)	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para ..	1	(-)	1	-	-	-
Non-Para .. ..	1	(-)	1	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis - Infective ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-
Post-infectious. ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . ...	1	(-)	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia. ... ..	1	(-)	-	1	1	-
Smallpox. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Typhoid. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Malaria. ... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	41	(-)	16	25	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. ... ..	5	(6)	2	3	3	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . ...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-
Totals .. ...	209	(179)	97	112	9	5



## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Only 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, considerably below the average. One of these was discovered by the Mass Radiography Unit. There were again no non-pulmonary cases. One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred.

Table VI gives a summary of the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1957 ..	51	48	13	11	123
New notifications ... ..	2	3	-	-	5
Transfers from other districts..	3	4	-	-	7
Deaths during year ... ..	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district. ... ..	3	1	-	-	4
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1957 .	52	54	13	11	130

## 3. POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to children vaccinated against Poliomyelitis during the year -

Year of Birth	No. Vaccinated
1954	18
1953	19
1952	15
1951	20
1950	40
1949	53
1948	58
1947	62
Total	285

## 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1957	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1957	Total number Immunised at end of 1957
1957	3	-	3
1956	77	-	84
1955	8	-	100
1954	4	-	88
1953	2	1	108
1952	-	20	104
1951	-	7	131
1950	1	3	107
1949	-	-	131
1948	-	-	119
1947	-	3	104
1946	1	1	102
1945	-	-	108
1944	-	1	90
1943	-	-	91
Totals	96	36	1470

These figures show that approximately 75% of children aged between 1 and 5 years have been immunised.

## 5. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VIII

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ... ..	54 (31)	- (-)
1 to 4 ... ..	47 (49)	- (1)
5 to 14 ... ..	5 (2)	3 (4)
15 and over. ...	10 (12)	8 (7)
Totals ..	116 (94)	11 (12)

These results are excellent, providing protection against Smallpox to a large proportion of the young population.

## SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLY

Several capital improvement works have been carried out in the past year to afford an improved supply of water, and also to meet the increased demands from the rapidly expanding holiday camp areas. These works included the construction of a 70,000 gallon storage tank at Warden, the laying of a 6" trunk main from this tank to Leysdown, the construction of a 15,000 gallon elevated storage tank at Priory Hill, Leysdown, the provision of settling tanks at the Leysdown Pumping Station, and the construction of an aeration tower at the Wallend Pumping Station. In addition, several thousand feet of new mains were laid in the area to afford supplies to new consumers, and to replace defective and overloaded mains.

During the year, Water Byelaws came into force for the first time in the area, and the interests of the Board's consumers are now safeguarded as all private work carried out in private properties is subject to inspection and approval by the Board.

The results of samples taken for bacteriological examination by the Board and the Health Department are shown below.

Supply	No. of samples taken	No. of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Faecal Coli
Warden -			
Untreated	47	10	4
Treated	4	-	-
Leysdown -			
Untreated	17	6	1
Eastchurch -			
Untreated	47	5	-
Treated	5	-	-
Wall End -			
Untreated	47	-	-
Abbey Gate -			
Untreated	45	6	3
Treated	3	-	-
Minster area -			
Treated	20	1	-

The number of dwelling-houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows -

	From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells	No. of houses
Minster .....	2592	-	-	-
Eastchurch ....	425	22	1	1
Warden .....	135	-	-	-
Leysdown .....	236	-	2	70*
Harty .....	-	-	5	15
Elmley .....	1	-	-	-

\*These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach. In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district -

Parish	Number of properties, including camps		
	Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster .....	2570	32	84
Eastchurch .....	199	180	151
Leysdown .....	132	103	71
Warden .....	-	131	19
Elmley & Harty .	-	24	10

(b) Sewage from the Minster area is collected either at the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works and the effluent is discharged into a ditch which goes directly into the sea.

Premises in the parish of Eastchurch are fairly equally divided between those on main drainage, cesspools and pail closets but satisfactory progress is continuing in relation to the abolition of cesspools and pail closets. The sewage from main drainage is dealt with at the Eastchurch Disposal Works and is ultimately piped to Windmill Creek.

The Leysdown main drainage scheme was completed during the year and the majority of camps and private houses have now been connected to the new system.

A night soil collection operated by the Council provides a service for 98 houses with pail closets.



### 3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The Scrapsgate tip is still used for controlled tipping and it is to be regretted that negotiations have not yet been concluded for the purchase of a new site at Windmill Creek.

### 4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found satisfactory.

### 5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. Washing facilities are also available in the conveniences at Leysdown and Scrapsgate. Plans are well advanced for additional conveniences with washing facilities for both sexes at Leysdown.

### 6. DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Six premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year -

	Council houses	Other houses
Bed bugs .....	1	1
Fleas .....	5	1
Ants .....	-	2
Carpet beetles .....	-	1

### 7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

The usual practice of spraying accumulations of water and ditches near houses with Malariol and DDT during the spring and summer was again carried out. Once again there were no serious nuisances reported.

### 8. RODENT CONTROL

One full time operator is employed and the following are details of surface infestations found and treated during the year -

Infestations by rats .....	155
Infestations by mice .....	44
Number treated by local authority .....	199
Number of farm surveys .....	131
Number of farms treated .....	32
Number of survey visits .....	1420
Number of treatment visits .....	961

A sewer test was carried out during the year but there were no signs of any infestation.

## 9. CAMPING SITES

The following are details of camping sites in the area -

Occupied sites .....	45
Approved sites not yet developed .....	2
Camps with mains water supplies .....	45
Camps connected to main drainage .....	22
Camps with own disposal works .....	1
Camps served by cesspools .....	19
Camps served by pail closets .....	3
Total number of dwellings on occupied sites 4500 approx.	

The 45 camps cover an area of approximately 335 acres. They are under regular supervision by the Public Health Inspector and generally speaking, are run efficiently and are not often the subject of complaint.

## 10. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

## 11. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Milk .....	8
Water .....	227
Cockles .....	4
Swabs .....	158
Faeces .....	36
Food .....	1

## 12. SHOPS ACT

The Public Health Department is responsible for the administration of this Act.

## SECTION V

## HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1957 and the total since the war.

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses:					
Completed in 1957 .....	12	-	-	-	12
Completed since the war:					
Permanent .....	298	14	-	36	348
Temporary .....	26	-	-	6	32
Under construction ...	24	-	-	-	24
Private enterprise:					
Completed in 1957 .....	24	-	-	-	24
Completed since the war	227	13	3	11	254

Individual Demolition Orders were made on Firsiel Cottages (2), Rose Tree Cottage, White Post Corner, and 1 and 2 Black Cottages, Eastchurch.

The following houses were demolished in consequence of Demolition Orders or Clearance Orders -

Nos.261, 263 and 265 Minster Road  
 Corner Cottage, Eastchurch  
 Firsiel Cottages (2), Eastchurch  
 No.80 High Street, Eastchurch  
 No.5 Church Road, Eastchurch  
 West Point, Warden.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below -

## Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	...	...
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...

## Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1)				
Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or				
informal procedure under Sec.17(1) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)				
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing	...	...	...	...
Act 1957	...	...	...	...
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26				
Total number of families displaced	...	...	...	...

## Repairs in the period

[illegible]



## SECTION VI

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## 1. MILK SUPPLY

There are now 40 distributors of milk in the district retailing the following designations -

Pasteurised .....	40
T.T. (Pasteurised) .....	4
Sterilised .....	36

Eight samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year and all passed the prescribed tests.

It is anticipated that the district will be included in a specified area by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and then the retail of only designated milks will be permitted.

## 2. ICE CREAM

54 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. One manufacturer is also registered.

## 3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

(a) The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered -

2 tins evaporated milk	....	2 lb
1 tin cream .....		8 oz
1 tin lobster .....		6 oz
Butter .....		16½ lb

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and buried on the Scrapsgate refuse tip.

(b) With the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations the transport and handling of meat in the rural area has proved satisfactory.

(c) Progress has been maintained in the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations and in the Leysdown area this has been facilitated by the completion of the main drainage scheme.

## 4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 84 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-1954 -

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, manufacture and sale ...	55	63
Preserved food, manufacture .....	1	14
Dairies .....	1	7

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below

Butchers .....	9
Fishmongers .....	7
Cafes and restaurants .....	21
Confectionery .....	4
Tea rooms .....	3
General stores, including greengrocery ..	71

203 inspections were made of these premises.

## 5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are five fish frying establishments and all are kept satisfactorily. Two mobile vans still operate during the summer.

## 6. SHELLFISH

Although there is no commercial collection of shellfish from the foreshore, many local residents and visitors collected cockles for their own use, particularly from the Scrapsgate area. Since these cockles were proved to be the cause of an outbreak of Typhoid in 1956, permanent warning notices have been erected. Also in consequence of this outbreak, the Port of London Health Authority in July of 1957 made an Order under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934, making the foreshore from Garrison Point to Warden Point a prescribed area. This forbids the collection for sale of any molluscan unless subsequent treatment has the approval of the Ministry of Health or the Port Health Authority.

## 7. BAKEHOUSES

There is only one bakehouse in the district and it is operated satisfactorily.

# 7. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year -

Apple and Strawberry Jam	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bread and Butter...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cherries in Syrup.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Extra Potency Yeast	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Lollie	..	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	17
Orange Squash	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peanut Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	1
Relaxa Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	...	1

All of the above samples were genuine.

## SECTION VII

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

## 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health -

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notice
Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	4	6	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ...	15	18	-
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	5	7	-

## 2. Cases in which defects were found ... Nil

## 3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action under Sections 110 & 111
Making of wearing apparel ..	1	-
Making of artificial flowers	1	-





## APPENDIX B

## Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1957

[illegible]